

in the Indian movement to working with those influential people, as they encouraged a new breed of activists.

For the past 4 decades, Dr. Deloria has been a voice of influence in Indian history, writing more than twenty books and countless articles and lectures. His works stimulated political thinking and discourse among Indian activists. As Wilma Mankiller, former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, said of Dr. Deloria, "No writer has more clearly articulated the unspoken emotions, dreams and lifeways of contemporary Native people."

Now a retired professor of political science from the University of Arizona and retired professor emeritus from the University of Colorado, Dr. Deloria is still writing and inspiring young activists from his home in Tucson, Arizona. In fact, *Time* magazine recognized Deloria as one of the 11 most influential religious thinkers of the twentieth century. As *Indian Country Today* notes, "Vine Deloria Jr. provided enormous perception, guidance, strategy and sheer analytical heft to the struggle for respect and justice for American Indians."

Dr. Vine Deloria, Jr., is an extraordinary pioneer and supporter of Native American rights and the honor of winning the American Indian Visionary Award is one he highly deserves. He is a man of great scholarship and knowledge, and will continue to shape history for years to come. Dr. Deloria has never sought honors or recognition, but his scholarship has brought him well-deserved accolades. It is an honor for me to share his accomplishments with my colleagues and to publicly commend Dr. Deloria on his talent and commitment to history, understanding, and education.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID A. AUSTIN

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. David A. Austin, an extraordinary man who touched many lives but passed away on November 4, 2004.

Dr. Austin lived a life full of vitality and enthusiasm. He had an accomplished career, always helped others without thought for himself and made his family the center of his life.

Dr. Austin was born in Brattleboro, VT, where he graduated from St. Michael's High School and received his Bachelor of Science from St. Michael's College. From there he went on to medical school at the University of Vermont where he began his lifelong career of healing and helping others.

After receiving his Naval Medical Officer commission, he continued his education, graduating from the Naval Deep Sea Diving School here in Washington, DC and the School of Submarine and Undersea Medicine in New London, CT.

After completing his active duty and residency at St. Albans Naval Hospital in New York, Dr. Austin opened his

medical practice in Rutland in 1970. When not practicing medicine, he was busy serving the community as a member of the Christ the King Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association and the Mount St. Joseph Academy school board, on both of which he served as president for a time.

Later in life, when many people his age were settling into retirement, he was called up during the first Gulf War to Bahrain to serve his country once again, after which he was awarded the Presidential Meritorious Service Medal.

But one of his greatest honors came last April when his peers in the medical community awarded him the Physician of the Year Award. A better man could not have been recognized.

Dr. Austin will be missed by family, friends and all those he touched with his healing hand.●

TRIBUTE TO ADAM GARDNER, YILEI YANG, ASHLEY SMITH, JACK HARTZ AND BENJAMIN GOWAN

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Adam Gardner, Yilei Yang, Ashley Smith, Jack Hartz and Benjamin Gowan as five truly outstanding students from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The National Honor Society organizes a Scholar's Bowl to foster a spirit of aspiration and hard work in America's students. These Scholar Bowls include testing of each student in five different categories: English, math, science, social studies, and general knowledge. The tests are rigorous and they require a longstanding history as a good student.

Being recognized by this organization is truly an honor and I am pleased to hear that these five students from Kentucky have become the National Honor Society's Scholar Bowl Champions. The four students from duPont Manual High School in Louisville, KY successfully defended their school's title as National Honor Society National Scholar's Bowl Champions. They are Adam Gardner, Yilei Yang, Ashley Smith, and Jack Hartz. One student, Benjamin Gowan, from Nelson County High School in Bardstown, KY, took first place in the test on the individual science subject category. Thanks to the hard work of these young men and women, four out of five of the top scoring students at last year's Scholar's Bowl were from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In their letter to me, the National Honor Society informed me that "these Kentucky students truly exhibited superlative performance." I congratulate these five students for their hard work and their achievement.●

CELEBRATING WILLIAM BEAUMONT HOSPITAL'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator STABENOW and myself, I con-

gratulate the William Beaumont Hospital on 50 years of dedicated service to the Michigan community.

William Beaumont Hospital opened its doors in Royal Oak in 1955 as a result of a survey in southeast Michigan which showed an overwhelming need for medical assistance in the area. The survey was quickly proven correct. Within its first week of operation, the hospital performed over 40 major surgeries and delivered over 30 babies. As the need continued to grow, Beaumont opened a second hospital in 1977 in Troy.

In the past 50 years, Beaumont has grown significantly, logging nearly 1.7 million inpatient admissions and nearly 3.3 million emergency visits. It works closely with several universities in Michigan to provide premier residency and fellowship programs and the Beaumont Research Institute conducts more than 800 active studies funded by grants.

Today, Beaumont is ranked among the top hospitals not just in Michigan but in the Nation. With staff representing over 90 different medical and surgical specialties, Beaumont has been honored with numerous awards including AARP's "Top 50 Hospitals," one of "America's Best Hospitals" by U.S. News and World Report, a "100 Top Hospitals—National Benchmarks for Success" by Solucient, and one of Michigan's "Best Places to Work" by Crain's Detroit Business.

Senator STABENOW and I are delighted to have the opportunity to thank the former and current staff of Beaumont Hospital for their enormous contributions to the State of Michigan and to congratulate them on reaching this significant milestone.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. CRAIG for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

* Jim Nicholson, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

* Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to